

**Governor Brian Schweitzer**  
**2009 State of the State Address Outline**

**EMBARGOED Until Delivery to the 61st Legislative Assembly**  
**7:00PM, Wednesday, January 28, 2009**

**-Check against delivery-**

<b>Introduction</b>
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Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, My fellow Montanans

It is my honor to address the 61st assembly of the Montana legislature

Or as Yogi Berra said "I want to thank everybody who made this day necessary"

Nancy Schweitzer

Kay Schweitzer

John and Karen Bohlinger

All the other state elected and tribal officials

President Story, Speaker Bergren, Minority Leader Williams and Minority Leader Sales – all leadership

George Groesbeck

Lt Gov George Turman

Donna Metcalf

Highway patrol - Evan Snyder and David Graham

In my pocket I have a card I am carrying close to my heart – honor Montana military members killed and wounded in action

Just today we learned of another Montana loss – 23-year-old SGT Trevor J. Johnson for Forsyth, MT was killed in the line of duty while serving in Afghanistan

Montana is a land for the optimistic

Starting 400 years ago, Indians awaiting spring and endless grass that fattened the buffalo and elk who were the bounty of the land

Miners who came by the thousands with pick in hand and high hopes

The homesteaders who seeded wheat in the spring with a prayer and harvested in the fall in thanksgiving to God

Members of this esteemed legislative assembly, we share a common history - let us share a common sense of the opportunities, We can achieve Montana's potential by working together to build...not by tearing each other down.

The time for action is now... Montana's families deserve nothing less.

I urge you to move forward to escape the failures of the 60<sup>th</sup> Montana assembly because as Ben Franklin observed, "you may delay, but time will not."

### **Patriot Act and Real ID**

Patriot Act (Representatives Campbell, Villa and Wiseman and Senators Kaufmann, Shockley and Cooney)

Real ID (Representatives Wiseman, Sales, Villa, and Senators Williams and Cooney)

Thank you for standing up.

History will not judge the last 6 years kindly, but that same history will know that the Montana Legislature said "no" to Americans spying on neighbors.

Thank you for your vision, resolve and sense of real patriotism and God Bless.

### **Accomplishments**

Together we have accomplished much over the last 4 years:

- Diversified economy - more new jobs at highest wages in history
- Full time kindergarten - invested more new money in k 12 and higher education than any time in history
- Best and Brightest
- Cut more taxes than any time in history, including the \$400 home owner rebate
- Most states enter these uncertain times with deficits we enter with the largest budget surplus in state history
- Attracted companies from all over the world (Australia, Spain, Germany, Ireland) and all across USA to invest in Montana
- Reforms to corrections

## Energy

I would like to thank the legislature for their vision in the past two sessions - both passing the renewable standards portfolio in 2005 in which we are already close to meeting the goal of 15% renewable by 2015 – 6 years early.

And for passing the clean and green energy package in 2007 which has helped spur our energy economy.

There were those who doubted our energy potential – but Montana is a land for optimists

- The optimist that produced 38% more oil and 34% more gas when only a few states have seen increases
- Coal with Signal Peak - first increase in 20 years
- The optimist that harnessed the nation's best wind energy - going from 1 MW in 2004 to 271 MW today
- And the optimist who said a large scale CTL facility is possible and brought the Many Stars coal-to-liquid project to the Crow Reservation

Rep. Llew Jones and Sen. Ron Erickson, a republican and a democrat, a farmer and a professor

CO2 sequestration legislation - SB 66, Sen. Ron Erickson

18 states:

6 states already adopted legal framework

Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington and Wyoming

4 states are drafting or in the process of passing legal framework:

New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas and West Virginia

8 states are talking, passing resolutions or forming commissions:

Alaska, California, Indiana, Michigan, Montana, New York, Ohio and Virginia

Meeting with Premier Wall

Domes:

- Porcupine - 2 billion tons – 111 years of Colstrip
- Kevin – 1.3 billion tons – 72 years of Colstrip
- Bowdoin – 2.9 billion tons – 161 years of Colstrip

## **Jobs and Stimulus**

Montana's state budget is in better shape than almost every other state, but we have much work ahead of us.

This international credit crisis did not start in Montana nor will it end in Montana.

The nature of Montana's economy sheltered us from the irrational highs and because of our conservative fiscal management; we will be protected from the deepest doldrums that are being experienced elsewhere.

Nevertheless, these are serious times requiring thoughtful leadership.

I know it is hard for the families who have just lost a job or are trying to make an already tight budget stretch farther. We will do all we can to give you opportunity again.

I have created a rapid response team, headed up by Dept of Labor and DPHHS and involves many more state agencies.

The team will assist workers who have experienced job loss and help direct families in need of healthcare and unemployment benefits

The Federal stimulus package will include money to create jobs now building roads and bridges, pipelines, transmission lines and improving school efficiency, for those who have lost health benefits help with health care costs, and assistance with college expenses.

Senators Baucus and Tester

In short help is on the way and we in Montana will remain optimistic like generations before us that better times are ahead.

## **Accountability**

With all this talk of big federal dollars, some may be concerned about government accountability and transparency

Or as Will Rogers says, "It's a good thing that we don't get all the government we paid for."

We will protect the public's investment. It is your money

Make government more efficient

State employees have agreed to wage freeze

We will assure that all public monies whether state or federal will be spent efficiently and we will be held accountable for money spent on our road builders, corrections officers, health care workers, our school administrators and teachers, our universities including 170 million in research funds that currently has little oversight

## **Taxes**

We will not increase property tax revenues because of the current reappraisal

In 2005 and 2007 I asked the legislature to end the business equipment tax for 90 percent of the filers. Please finish the job in 2009.

## **Healthcare**

Fully fund SCHIP (Rep. Chuck Hunter, HB 157.)

Montana citizens have spoken and they expect action from you with no delay.

## **Stream Access**

Rep. Kendall Van Dyk - HB 190 bridge access

Bringing Republicans and Democrats together for a common purpose - First breakthrough since 1985

## **Education**

Nothing is as important to the future of Montana than our education system.

Honor geologist who came back to Fairfield to teach and became a teacher through online education

Rai (pronounced ray) Hahn

HB 388 - Rep. Kendall Van Dyk has heard many republicans join democrats calling for higher teacher salaries. His bill is the Montana Energy for Education act or E squared.

I have heard legislators both Republicans and Democrats who called for higher teacher salaries during your campaigns.

Now is the time to put your promises to the test. I expect dozens of you will be cosponsors of his bill. Kendall's bill will use the Wyoming model of oil and gas taxation, but will continue the tradition of Montana's tax rate which is lower than Wyoming's lower taxes than Wyoming and better pay for teachers.

## **Conclusion**

We have some difficult decisions to make together.

These decisions are not about money – they are about people.

Let us resolve this evening to never forget who we work for.

The farmer, the teacher, the single mom with a disabled child, the student, the young family, the oil driller, the miner and the truck driver.

To help us remember our common hope and optimism - I close with these words first said by others:

“The moral test of government is how that government treats those in the dawn of life, the children, those in the twilight of life, the elderly and those in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”

Members of the 61<sup>st</sup> assembly.... We will be judged by our actions not by our words.

Thank you God Bless Montana and God bless America.

